

Bellevue State Park to celebrate its 40th anniversary

WILMINGTON – Bellevue State Park is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and the staff and the Friends of Bellevue State Park invite the public to join the celebration with all kinds of family-friendly activities and fun for all ages noon – 10:30 p.m. Sunday, July 2. The park will waive its entry fee for the day.

The celebration will feature concerts by Kategorie 5 and the 85-member Chester County Concert Band; a park-wide scavenger hunt with prizes; face painting; sand art; food trucks; an open house at Bellevue Hall (staged for a wedding); tennis and disc golf clinic; dog training and mounted police demonstrations; and exhibits from the Brandywine Zoo and Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research. The evening will include a craft beer garden on the patio, live music, a guided hike through the estate, and an introduction to observing the night sky.

Bellevue State Park was established in 1977, and was previously the estate of William DuPont Jr., a bank executive and prominent figure in thoroughbred horse racing and breeding. The estate features a large mansion home, a nine-furlong racetrack, the Figure 8 Barn, extensive stables and paddocks and a first class clay court tennis center used by DuPont's wife, Margaret Osbourne, a champion professional tennis player.

In addition to the DuPont mansion and estate, Bellevue State Park also includes the mansion and grounds of the Daniel Cauffiel estate and the historic Mount Pleasant Meeting House, parsonage and cemetery.

Walking and biking are very popular around the park's mile-long trail, which circles a catch-and-release fishing pond. Hiking and riding trails, including a portion of the Northern Delaware Greenway Trail, allow for leisurely exploration of other parts of the estate by foot, bike, or horse.

Bellevue also boasts a modern, privately-run equestrian facility with arenas and full-service stables. Year-round, the park provides a variety of public programs for visitors of all ages, including tours, guided hikes, and nature-themed educational programs. Youth day camps are also available for children of all ages, along with a popular concert series during the summer. Hayrides are available in the fall, and outdoor ice skating on the pond is available during the colder months, conditions permitting.

For more information, visit www.destateparks.com or call 302-761-6963.

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